

CHESAPEAKE BAY STEWARDSHIP FUND FIELD DOC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This document captures frequently asked questions for NFWF's use of FieldDoc for grant application purposes. This document will be updated as new questions are identified, so please reach out to NFWF staff with anything we haven't yet addressed.

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What is FieldDoc?

FieldDoc was created to make it easy for restoration professionals to set goals, track progress, and measure the success of their best management practices (BMPs). By documenting project work in FieldDoc, organizations gain real-time insight on the impact their effort has on the landscape, an elegant way to measure and track progress toward restoration goals, and a suite of interim metrics that indicate whether BMPs are succeeding.

Why is NFWF using FieldDoc?

Through the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, NFWF funds projects to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution across the Chesapeake Bay watershed and improve habitat for important species. NFWF and its funding partners increasingly require consistent, reliable information on nutrient and sediment load reductions and habitat restoration activities planned and achieved by our grantees, along with detailed information on the location, extent, and relative quality of BMPs implemented through the Stewardship Fund. FieldDoc allows NFWF to:

1. Obtain standardized nutrient and sediment load reductions estimates for priority BMPs that are consistent with Chesapeake Bay Program watershed modeling tools;
2. Better understand the location and extent of individual BMPs planned and implemented through NFWF-funded projects;
3. Gather more detailed information on the relative quality of planned BMPs for achieving water quality and habitat-related goals;
4. Measure interim progress in how projects are achieving intended outcomes; and
5. Communicate consistent information to Chesapeake Bay Program partners on planned and implemented BMPs.

For these reasons, NFWF plans to utilize FieldDoc to track planned and implemented BMP progress and associated load reductions and habitat improvements for all awarded Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grants, beginning in 2016.

How does FieldDoc compare to other nutrient and sediment load calculators?

FieldDoc is just one of many tools out there that can estimate nutrient and sediment load reductions for BMPs implemented in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. What sets FieldDoc apart is its consistency with prevailing watershed modeling tools used by the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, user-friendly interface and workflow, and utility for application at the individual project scale for management, tracking, and reporting purposes. In short, FieldDoc is indeed a powerful nutrient and sediment load calculator, but it's much, much more than that.

How does FieldDoc work?

FieldDoc is built on extensive underlying data on hydrology, soils, land use, and other variables critical to understanding pollutant load reduction potential for specific BMPs. As users enter project data on the location and size of BMPs, FieldDoc runs complex algorithms in real-time, consistent with those used in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model Phase 6.0, to translate project data into estimates of both current pollutant loading at the project site(s) and the efficiency of BMPs in reducing pollutant loads. As users enter additional data on planned BMPs, BMP installation progress, and ongoing BMP monitoring efforts, FieldDoc allows users to track incremental and cumulative progress in reducing nutrient and sediment loads.

Can I use other calculators to estimate load reductions for my NFWF grant application and reports?

A variety of tools and resources are available to help applicants estimate nutrient and sediment load reductions from proposed projects, and FieldDoc may or may not be the most appropriate tool for estimating load reductions from your proposed NFWF grant project. FieldDoc includes functionality for the BMPs listed in Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool.

FieldDoc currently includes functionality for a limited set of priority BMPs, including forest and grass buffers, non-tidal wetlands restoration, livestock exclusion, streambank stabilization, enhanced stream restoration, bioretention, and urban homeowners practices (including rain garden, permeable pavement, downspout disconnection, urban nutrient management, conservation landscaping, tree planting, and impervious surface removal). FieldDoc will be expanded in future years to account for additional BMPs and will include additional functionality in future years to improve its use at the application stage for prospective NFWF grantees.

For those reasons, applicants may use other load reduction calculators or other science-based methods to estimate nutrient and sediment load reductions *for BMPs that are not currently available in FieldDoc*. However, NFWF encourages applicants to use FieldDoc to estimate load reductions to the greatest extent practicable. Regardless of which approach you choose, all applicants to the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction and Small Watershed Grants programs will be required to upload documentation on their load calculation methods in Easygrants as part of the application package and programmatic reports.

How does FieldDoc relate to NFWF's [Easygrants](#) reporting tool?

Easygrants is NFWF's formal online grants management and reporting tool. FieldDoc does not replace *Easygrants* in any way, but instead offers an additional tool to ensure the quality and consistency of data and information reported via *Easygrants* for grant applications and interim and final reports for awarded projects.

Applicants to the Stewardship Fund can use the "FieldDoc User Guide" available on [our website](#) for guidance on how to use FieldDoc for generating *Easygrants* information for their Stewardship Fund application. Generally, applicants proposing to implement any of the priority BMPs currently included in FieldDoc should use data they've entered in FieldDoc and associated FieldDoc load reduction calculations as a basis for what's entered in the "Metrics" section of your application in *Easygrants*. Where other BMPs are proposed that aren't currently included in FieldDoc, FieldDoc outputs can be combined with BMPs and load reductions generated from other tools or methods for entry into *Easygrants*.

When am I required to provide NFWF with FieldDoc data?

Applicants to the Stewardship Fund should use data they've entered in FieldDoc and associated FieldDoc load reduction calculations as a basis for what's entered in the "Metrics" section of your application in Easygrants.

Additionally, throughout the life of awarded grants, NFWF's annual reports will prompt grantees to provide up-to-date data from FieldDoc with each report.

What if I don't know exactly where I'll be working?

Because FieldDoc uses geographic information to generate baseline nutrient and sediment loading information and calculate load reductions, you'll need to identify your specific restoration site(s) or, at least, a site(s) representative of the landscape or location in which you plan to work.

FieldDoc provides detailed loading information down to the land-river segment scale, a combination of county, physiographic, and watershed boundaries used by the Phase 6.0 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. There are roughly 1,000 individual land-river segments delineated in FieldDoc with an average area of roughly 66 square miles or 42,000 acres, though the size and scale of segments varies considerably based on geography, political subdivisions, and local hydrology.

Importantly, nutrient and sediment load reduction calculations in FieldDoc do not vary significantly across adjacent or connected land-river segments. Moreover, the selection of a specific site within a landriver segment will have no impact on the load reduction calculations for that site or specific BMPs at that site. That is, for load reduction purposes in FieldDoc, it matters only which land-river segment in which you're working, and not exactly where within that land-river segment you're proposing to work.

For many Stewardship Fund applicants, a land-river segment as delineated in FieldDoc may wholly capture the proposed project area. However, NFWF understands that some projects may propose work across several segments. Moreover, some projects may not have specific restoration sites yet identified, or may propose work at a larger scale with specific restoration sites identified through the term of the grant project. To address these special cases, NFWF advises Stewardship Fund applicants to use the decision tree included in our "FieldDoc User Guide for 2016 NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Applicants" to determine how best to identify either a known restoration site or representative restoration sites in FieldDoc.

Where can I go for technical support?

Please refer to the FieldDoc User Guide available on [our website](#). Applicants with further questions or requiring technical support can contact NFWF at Carley.Morton@nfwf.org or (202) 857-0166.